

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, John Koutonen, David Streb, Mary Heline (assoc. member) (7)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Smith, Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 29th & Feb. 2nd meetings approved with minor corrections.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request for Determination of Applicability - 25 Newport St., site remediation

Hearing opened. Brian Butler, Goldman Environmental Consulting presented proposed work in Riverfront Area. As part of due diligence prior to pending sale, property owner's LSP found one hot spot. Proposing to excavate an approx. 25' x 25' x 6' deep area of arsenic & lead contaminated soils at the northeast corner of the former Parks Cramer building. Source of contamination: coal ash near a former boiler. No stockpiling of materials. Contaminated material will be live-loaded onto trucks & removed. Bottom of pit will be tested to confirm all contaminated material has been removed. One day turnaround for results. Excavation will be backfilled with clean materials. Entire job will take est. two days.

Risk assessment done - - no need for an AUL (Activity & Use Limitation).

Proposed excavation is in the Riverfront Area, approx. 100-110 feet from Nashua River. A flood protection berm is between this area and the Nashua River. There is one plugged catchbasin at the base of the flood berm which will be surrounded by an erosion control barrier.

Public comment: None. Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability with notification to Conservation Agent when excavation is going to take place to inspect ECBs. Vote in favor.

Notice of Intent - Georgia-Pacific, soil remediation, 85 Princeton Rd. (cont'd from 1/29/19)

Mike Scott, LSP from BSC Group & Martin Lebo, AquAeTer, Inc. present. Hearing re-opened. Due to a change in the scope of the proposed remediation, both DEP and EPA are now involved in the project. It has been thought that the PCB-impacted materials originated from the oil drums, but that may not be the case. Given the probable extended timeline for EPA involvement, G-P is requesting that their pending NOI be withdrawn. G-P will prepare a new NOI application based on the outcome of its meeting(s) with EPA and MassDEP concerning assessment & remediation of PCB-impacted materials on the site.

Public comment: None. Motion made & seconded to close hearing. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to Allow G-P's NOI to be withdrawn w/o prejudice.

Mike Scott added that the area of disturbance where the oil drums had been removed last year (where the initial stabilization had washed away) will be re-seeded in the spring.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Wyman Pond, Westminster, Vegetation Management

Tracey recapped Westminster Conservation Commission meeting last week concerning an NOI filed for removal of invasive vegetation in Wyman Pond, which the Fitchburg Water Dept. owns. Wachusett Lake & Wyman Pond is an emergency back-up water supply for the City of Fitchburg. The applicant, a company called Solitude, plans to apply herbicides in certain areas of the Pond to control invasives. Fitchburg Water has not signed off on the application and they are concerned about the long-term effects of the herbicides on the water supply & on the shallow wells that surround the Pond.

John Deline & the City Solicitor & Asst. City Solicitor also attended the meeting. Water Dept. would like to use Tim's services, at their expense, in reviewing the proposal. Water Dept. will be testing some of the wells of dwellings on Wyman Pond. The hearing on the NOI was continues to the Westminster Commission's next meeting, Weds. 3/27 at Westminster Town Hall.

North County Land Trust regional meeting Feb.7th

Synopsis of meeting re-capped. Representatives of my area towns listed what were the most important open spaces in their communities

Correspondence

- Mass DOT is holding 25% design hearing for the Twin Cities Rail Trail on Weds. 3/13 at the Four Points in Leominster
- Recent activity at Iver Johnson buildings on River St. Owners are cleaning site up & will proposed conversion to a mixed use development. NOIs will be need, all in floodplain & Riverfront Area.
- MACC conference this Sat. March 2.
- Mass. Land Trust Conference Sat. April 27 @ MWCC.
- Fisher Rd. near Ashby State Rd. – Bldg. Dept. rec'd Form of Intent for proposed dwelling(s) near Falulah Brook & bordering wetlands. Will need NOI - alternative to wetland crossing should be explored.
- Forest Cutting Plan filed for FFF Realty Trust (former JCJ 55 condo development off Arn-How Farm) that was never built.

Certificates of Compliance

#155-328, 371-373 Lunenburg St, Fitchburg Animal Hospital. This is for when the Animal Hospital was originally built. Project long since finished. Cert. of Compliance never requested; one is needed now for real estate closing - - 371 Lunenburg (Godfrey's) to be converted into cannabis retail (#155-682 issued earlier)

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.
Meeting adjourned: 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting: 3/26/19
Minutes approved: 4/30/19